

**News**[Feature Focus](#)[Celebrate](#)[Conference News](#)[Local Church News](#)[Lifting Up...](#)[NEWS Archives](#)[SEC News Resources](#)**SECUCC eNewsletter**[Sign up for SECUCC](#)[Email Newsletter](#)[GO](#)**Southeast Conference FAQ's**[Who is the SEC?](#)[Who is the UCC?](#)[How Do I Find a UCC Church?](#)[What Ministries are Available?](#)[Is Training Available?](#)YOU ARE HERE: [HOME](#) ▶ [NEWS](#)**A Word From Tim Downs - November 2011**

Dear Friends,

**A New Season in
the Life of the Southeast Conference**

Throughout this newsletter you are seeing articles about churches that are seeking to **Renew, to Grow, to Respond** to the line from the old hymn, "New occasions teach new duties". The conference is eager to partner with churches that are looking to their future, and seeking resources to do so creatively.

Here are some of the ways the SEC can engage with your church:

1. **Two loan programs available:** The United Church of Christ has two loan programs available, one designed for new and newly affiliated churches, the Church Building and Loan Fund, and the other intended for churches, which have been a part of the United Church of Christ, the Cornerstone Fund. Churches across the Southeast Conference have taken advantage of both these funds to undertake renovations and improvements to their facilities. If you are interested in learning more, you can contact me in the conference office.
2. **Commitment to strengthening:** We are committed to the strengthening of the financial life and stewardship responses of our local churches. Debbie Spearman's job has been revised from working exclusively with the follow up to the Transforming Churches Transforming Lives campaign to working in a broad area of financial development in the local church. Debbie is gathering resources from the national UCC, and beginning to reach out to churches to assess their needs, and develop plans for a response.
3. **Support in moving:** A number of our churches have approached us asking for support as they consider moving in new directions and reaching new people. Working with the Center for Progressive Renewal, we have prepared proposals for intensive engagement with churches around renewal and revisioning.
4. **Online leadership training:** With the launch of PATHWAYS, we will provide online leadership training for both lay leaders and those preparing for authorized ministry, either as ordained or licensed ministers. This program is being undertaken in collaboration with Lancaster Theological Seminary, and with the support of the Center for Progressive Renewal.
5. **Development of proposals:** Some of our congregations have developed proposals to renew aspects of their ministries, which have been funded by the national church. The conference office is available to assist in developing those

**UCC News****UCC Newsroom**

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

Faith coalition applauds net neutrality ruling, offers webinar Advocating to maintain principles of equal access to Internet resources and bandwidth, the United Church of Christ Office of Communication, Inc. (UCC OC Inc.) and the World Association for Christian Communication, North America (WACC North America) are offering a free Dec. 6 webinar to inform faith communities' use of new technologies and the importance of net neutrality.



proposals.

This is truly a ***New Season in the life of the Southeast Conference***, and for that matter across the United Church of Christ. We invite you to being in touch with us to explore ways in which your church can look to its future creatively and strategically.

Contact me directly if you have any questions on the information listed above.

Peace,

Tim Downs

Timothy C. Downs

Latest News	Most Read Articles
Youth 2012 Winter Retreat News From Our Local Churches - November PATHWAYS First Cohort SEC Campaign - October 2011 Conference News - November	Southeast Conference UCC (SEC) UCC History and Polity Southeast Conference Campaign Steps to Planting a New Church Global Theological Education

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- Conference Minister
- TAP Director
- SEC Donations
- Church Development
- Communications Director

SECUCC RESOURCES

- Annual Meeting
- Global Theological Education
- Local Church News
- SEC Churches
- Seminars/Webinars

FAVORITE LINKS

- Bridge 4 Faith
- The Center for Progressive Renewal
- United Church of Christ
- Mission Insite
- Resource Center

EVENTS CALENDAR

November 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

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